GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Standard of Education
Malyadri Shri Sriram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that massive privatisation has led to fall in standards of higher education system and discipline among the universities and schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of Indian students going abroad for studies is on the rise and the number of foreign students coming to India for higher studies is declining and if so, the details thereof during the last three years, field/education-wise:

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve our education system; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The stated policy of the Government is that education is a 'not-for-profit' activity. Presently, private sector participation exists in the funding and management of educational institutions as long as surplus earned is reasonable and the same is ploughed back for development of institutions. Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 clearly prohibits the collection of any capitation fee. Similar steps have been taken in higher education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued several regulations, such as, UGC Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities, 2003; UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be Universities) Regulations, 2010 and UGC Institutions Deemed-to-be Universities (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued AICTE (Establishment of Mechanism for Grievance Redressal) Regulation, 2012.

(c) : Studies abroad being a matter of individual will and choice, information regarding the number of Indian students going abroad is not maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The details of foreign students coming to India for higher education is not available field/education-wise. However, as per the record of Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of foreign students who arrived in the country was 93693 in 2013, 44620 in 2014 and 66885 up to 21.12.2015

(d) & (e): Improvement of standards of higher education is an on-going process and the Central Government has been making a constant effort in this direction. It is the endeavour of the central government to promote and develop all institutions of higher education. Minimum standard of education in every university is ensured by the UGC through its regulations in this regard. Universities however may vary in the quality of education beyond the minimum standards laid down by UGC depending on, inter-alia, availability of resources, infrastructure etc.

The UGC has issued the UGC (Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of higher Educational Institutions), Regulations, 2012 whereby all universities and colleges are required to have themselves accredited. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the overall quality of state higher educational institutions is sought to be improved by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.

The UGC has taken various measures to improve the standards of education in universities and colleges, such as the introduction of a semester system, the regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS), etc. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities. The UGC has also laid down the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010 and UGC (Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 for maintaining standards in Deemed to be Universities and Private Universities respectively.

The UGC also implements various schemes aimed at improving the quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Basic Scientific Research (BSR) etc.

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